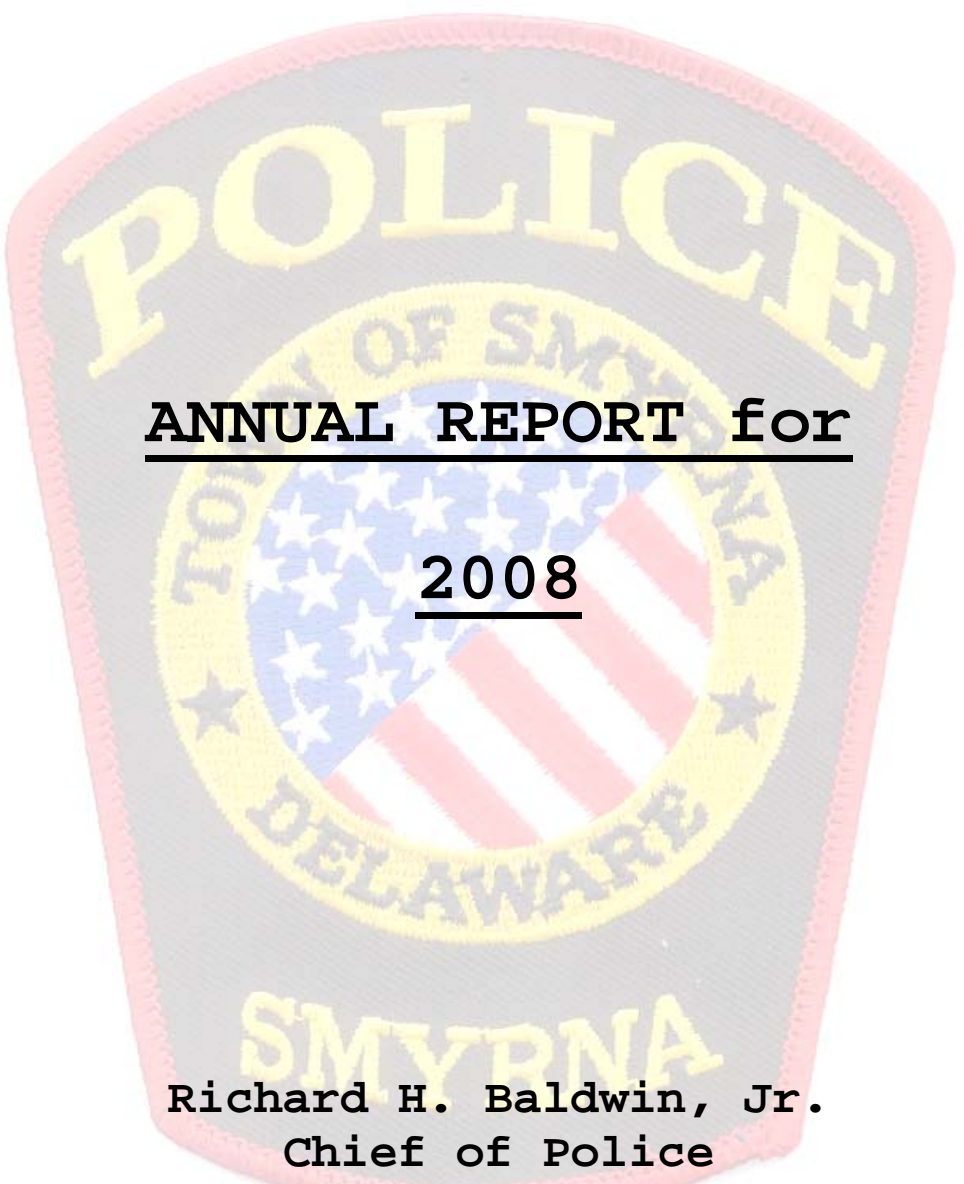


SMYRNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT for

2008

A large, faded, light-colored police badge is centered in the background. The badge is shield-shaped with a red border. At the top, the word "POLICE" is written in large, yellow, serif capital letters. Below it, a circular seal features a blue field with white stars and a red and white striped field. The words "TOWN OF SMYRNA" are written in a yellow arc above the seal, and "DELAWARE" is written in a yellow arc below it. At the bottom of the badge, the word "SMYRNA" is written in large, yellow, serif capital letters.

Richard H. Baldwin, Jr.
Chief of Police
Captain Wilbert Bordley
Operations Officer
Lieutenant Norman Wood
Special Investigations Unit Commander
Lieutenant W. Robert Wilson
Patrol Division Commander
Joyce Nabb
Police Administrator

ANNUAL REPORT for 2008

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

A portion of our department's Code of Conduct captures the essence of the service that Smyrna Police officers provide for our community:

“As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard life and property, to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression and intimidation, and the peaceful against violence and disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all men to liberty, equality and justice.

During the calendar year 2008 officers of the Smyrna Police Department responded to 7,956 calls for service from the residents and guests of the Town of Smyrna. Smyrna officers initiated an additional 14,144 calls for service for a total of 22,100 calls. As law enforcement professionals we strive to uphold our charge to “serve mankind” and all that means. We have a full time staff of twenty-two sworn police officers and seven civilian employees. Our full time employees are assisted in their duties by part time police dispatchers and crossing guards. Our jobs are made easier by seven Citizen Auxiliary Patrol officers.

The greatest advantage that a small town police department offers to its citizens is our accessibility. Not only do we boast a superlative response time to calls for service (80% of all calls are responded to within our goal of 3 to 4 minutes and 80% of priority calls have an officer at the scene within 3 to 4 minutes) the Chief of Police is available by telephone virtually 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Emergency calls are taken at the Kent County Emergency Reporting Center at 9-1-1 and transferred directly to our police dispatchers. We are available to citizens at any time at 653-9217. Our Administrative offices are open from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday to Friday; but a timely response from a police staff officer can be had by calling the 653-9217 24/7.

Our department is divided into four separate divisions, Administration, Patrol, Special Investigations, and Communications. The Annual Report is broken down into each of these divisions.

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

Information Technology

During the year we completely integrated the TRACS technology (electronic crash reports) and E-Tickets (electronic traffic summons) so that our employees are operating virtually paperless.

We purchased and installed five (5) new lap top computers and printers for our fleet so that we can print out (OK, we are almost paperless) traffic summonses and crash reports. This enables us to take full advantage of the IT options available from the state.

Training

During 2008 we completed all of the required National Incident Management System training for our staff. We conducted simulated "active shooter" training at the Middle School for all of our officers. Three officers were certified or re-certified in 'SWAT' training. Sgt. Moore was trained to the instructor level on 'Less lethal' weapons. Three middle management level officers attended supervisory training and three staff level officers attended the Delaware Police Chiefs' Conference. Five officers attended the Delaware State Police sponsored Homicide Conference. All officers received the requisite sixteen (16) hours in-service training and completed all of the COPT mandatory training in firearms, first aid, and AED. Not counting K-9 training our officers received a total of 774 hours of training in 2008, for an average of about 35 hours per officer. Three dispatchers received about 50 hours of training.

Accreditation

Achieving state accreditation has been a goal for a number of years. In the summer of 2008 the Delaware Police Chiefs' Council 's Accreditation Committee adopted the necessary standards to begin the process and moved to approve applications from individual department's for accreditation funds committed by the Delaware Legislature. The SPD applied for and received \$3,000 from this fund to continue to pursue the goal of accreditation by the end of 2009.

PATROL DIVISION

Enforcement

To make more effective and efficient use of our manpower resources we created a **TAC Unit**, consisting of one motorcycle qualified officer assigned to the Patrol Division, to address specific traffic enforcement issues.

Our TAC officer made 1,142 traffic arrests this year.

An area that we wanted to see improvement in for 2008 over 2007 was DUI enforcement. We approached the Delaware Office of Highway Safety to see if we could obtain any funding from them for DUI enforcement. They responded by awarding us a grant for a number of DUI checkpoints in conjunction with the Clayton Police Department. To date we have made 140 DUI arrests compared to 67 for the same time period in 2007.

For the year 2008 the department made 4,958 traffic arrests, 140 DUI arrests, and 957 criminal arrests. The department responded to 7,956 calls for service dispatched through our communications center compared to 7,590 for the 2007, a 5% increase. In addition officers initiated another 14,144 actions.

The officers in our Patrol Division averaged 2,210 responses per officer for the year. When time off is figured into the numbers, officers are averaging around 13 responses to calls per shift.

If efficiency can be measured by total work load, then we improved our patrol officer's efficiency by increasing their productivity from an average of a response to 9.9 calls per shift in 2007 to 13.3 responses in 2008. At the same time traffic stops, a major indicator of officer initiated action, increased in 2008 almost 25% from 3,350 to 4,184. The average number of foot patrols performed by patrol officers was up by 7% and the average number of property checks performed by patrol officers was up 28%.

Citizens of Smyrna expect that the response time for a police officer will be prompt, after all it is one of the major benefits of living within a municipality as opposed to somewhere out in the county. In 2007 our response time to urgent calls between our target times of 3 to 4 minutes was for 81% of these calls. After the re-assignment of officers to Quality of Life and TAC in 2008 that number dropped a negligible 1.5% to 79.5%. For all calls, urgent and routine, we arrived in the 3 to 4 minute time period 75.1% of the time in 2008, a slight improvement to the 75% of the time in 2007.

Another indicator to consider is how much of a patrol officer's time is committed, that is when he/she is busy

handling calls for service and theoretically not available for another call. In 2007 our patrol officers were committed 46.4% of the time. In 2008 that number *dropped* to 44.6%.

All of the numbers that we have to look at would indicate that the creation of the Quality of Life and TAC Units in 2008 did not adversely affect the quality of service that our Patrol Division provides for our citizens and in fact helped us to be more proactive in our enforcement efforts and increased the overall efficiency of our officers.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

Quality of Life Unit

Our Quality of Life Unit has the specific assignment to address those crimes that decrease the quality of life that many of our residents experience.

To date this unit has been very successful, working diligently to combat street level drug sales, public nuisance issues, and to assist our drug officer with drug investigations. For the year 2008 the Quality of Life Unit stopped 460 vehicles, made 566 traffic arrests, issued 103 traffic warnings, wrote 191 Crime Prevention Checks, made 22 DUI arrests, 205 criminal arrests, arrested 62 local fugitives, performed 56 vehicle searches, and attended 21 community events.

Criminal Investigators

The SIU detectives investigated 199 cases and cleared 77% of them. In addition to the criminal detective the department has a drug investigator who is a member of both the DEA and ATF task forces. We also have two School Resource Officers, one who is dedicated to the Smyrna High School and the other officer handles the rest of the school district schools located in the town limits.

COMMUNITY POLICING

Community Policing efforts continue to be an integral part of the department's mission. In 2008 we participated in the following events:

- I Love Smyrna School District Day
- Opening Day - Smyrna Clayton Little League
- Memorial Day Parade
- Smyrna Clayton Rotary Car Show
- 4th of July Parade & Celebration @ the Municipal Park
- 4th of July Fireworks at the Little League fields

- National Night Out Celebration
- Firefly 5K Run to benefit Smyrna PAL.
- Smyrna High School Homecoming Parade
- Halloween Trick or Treat Run
- Lions Club Santa Claus escort

Patrol officers are required to dedicate a portion of Each workday's time to foot patrols in the town's neighborhoods. Officers regularly meet with various Homeowner Associations and other community groups such as the Boys and Girls Club, Smyrna Clayton Rotary, Smyrna Downtown Renaissance Association, People of Purpose, Smyrna Clayton 4th of July Association, and others.

The following text is taken from the Department Mission Statement:

“Recognizing the fact that police agencies were established as a result of society's voluntary limitation of personal freedoms, we encourage and expect the participation of the community in facilitating solutions to problems of mutual concern. We therefore solicit and support problem-solving contributions from all members of this community regardless of race, sex, creed, national origin or social status.”

Our motto is “to Protect and Serve”. We cannot be successful without the help and support of the citizens we are sworn to protect and serve. There will always be members of our community who look upon law enforcement officers with skepticism and even antagonism. Our challenge is to involve the Smyrna community in a shared effort to provide a safe, positive environment for our residents to live and work. I believe that this report demonstrates the hard work and dedication of the men and women of the Smyrna Police Department. We invite those we serve to join with us in this cooperative effort.

Submitted by:

Richard H. Baldwin, Jr.
Chief of Police